

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to include the continuing data of the subject application. In addition, the specification and abstract have been reviewed and amended to improve their idiomatic English form. Claims 2-48 have been cancelled.

A new set of claims will be submitted in due course.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449.

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d), copies of the listed documents are not enclosed because they are of record in related Application No. 09/961,430.

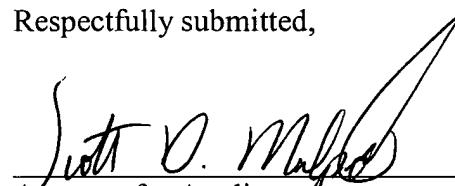
It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

CONCLUSION

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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